

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 1, 3-7 and 10-13 have been cancelled (along with previously cancelled claim 2), while claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 11, and claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 13.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,002,655 to Ono et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,878,002 to Takahashi. Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has found claims 11 and 13 allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above changes, Applicants believe that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection has been overcome.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 8 and 9, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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